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NEW YORK, N. Y.

Intelligence Column.

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REIDY—A few good salesmen to take orders for fruit and ornamental trees, shrubs, etc. No experience necessary. References required. GOOD PAY.

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BEARING FALSE WITNESS.

The Ninth of Mr. Merrell's Com- mandment Series.

The Discourse at the First M. E. Church Last Evening—Talk by O. H. Creel.

A congregation that packed the auditorium of the First Methodist church and overflowed into the Sunday school rooms, gathered last evening to listen to the Ninth Commandment as presented by the pastor, Rev. F. W. Merrell.

After a preliminary song service in which the large audience participated heartily, a beautiful descriptive song was rendered by O. H. Creel who had just returned from an evangelistic engagement with Mr. Bliss who labored in this city last winter. At the close of the service Mr. Creel gave a brief description of the revival in Ashland, Wis., in which it was estimated that some 600 persons were converted. These remarks were prefaced and followed by some of Mr. Creel's beautiful solos.

The pastor spoke from Exodus 20:16: "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."

The Ninth Commandment is directed against two sins. 1. Sin against a neighbor. 2. Sin against the truth.

The value of a good reputation is expressed by Solomon in these words, "A good name is better than precious ointment." It is to be preferred to all the wealth and honor of this world. It is a sacred possession. With most professional men, it is worth more than a long bank account. To a minister of the gospel it is the prime essential, it gives character and force to his words. It is to be guarded with the most sedulous care. The man who would injure the good name of a neighbor should be classed lower than the thief. Shakespeare puts it thus:

"Who steals my purse, steals trash; 'tis some- thing, nothing."

"Twas a curse, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands."

But he that filches from me my good name, robs me of that which neither can give him, nor take from me, nor indeed, I can give or lose."

Or as George Eliot puts it, "there are robberies that leave a man or woman forever beggared of peace and joy."

In speaking of the good name of a neighbor, it is possible to commit crimes darker than any catalogued in our statute books. Ben Johnson speaks of "cutting men's throats with whisperings." Pol- lock says, "Twas slander filled her mouth with lying words; slander, the foulest whelp of sin." And Swift tersely speaks of such as:

"Convey a libel in a frown, And wink a reputation down."

Slander is, as one has said, "an arrow shot in the dark," and "the revenge of a coward. Some one has characterized gossip as those who 'murder characters to kill time.'"

Some say they do not care what others think of them. This expression is very foolish or wicked, or both. Usefulness in the world depends very largely on reputa- tion. Character and reputation com- monly coincide, not always. There have been periods in the world's history when Christians have suffered for well doing. Christ did. His enemies put forth every effort to blacken his reputation, his good name; so often in the conflict with evil. In all such cases we are to rejoice and be exceedingly glad," Christ tells us. But men universally respect right doing and "truth crashed to earth shall rise again."

A good name renders a man more serviceable to God, and a fitter instrument to promote His honor and glory in the world. Some persons have such a reputa- tion that they can do the cause of Christ no good. Their words are powerless. They lack the backing of character. Emerson says: "What you are sounds so loud I cannot hear what you say." Words are empty sounds without character behind them. Reputation is a tender plant. The foul breath of slander or suspicion causes it to wither like a thing of life at the breath of a sirocco. How little a thing will often destroy all the good a man has done or can do! So Satan often attacks the reputation. He blackmails good men not infrequently. And there are those who gloat over the blackening of a good name, who fatten upon such carrion.

These facts all conspire to impose a great responsibility upon Christians. They are "epistles of Christ, known and read of all men." The world reads Christians more than the word of God. Let Christians therefore be careful of reputation, that is to say, take care of your character and God will take care of your reputa- tion. In the light of these facts, how tenderly one should handle the reputations of others! The sins here forbidden are:

1. Lying—This sin has been defined as "speaking an untruth with intent to deceive. Hence, fiction, parables, figurative expressions are not lies. The purpose may be to instruct from an ideal standpoint. The liar is most closely al- lied to Satan, who is called in scripture, 'the father of lies.' A lie shows a de- generate and cowardly fear of man and a daring contempt of the great God. This doubtless is the reason why the imputation of lying is regarded as the basest and most ignominious charge one man can lay on another.

2. Slander has been already referred to in speaking of the value of reputation. In words, slander and scandal were origi- nally from the same root word, and both mean a snare laid for an enemy. Web- ster defines slander as "A false tale or report, maliciously uttered and tending to injure the reputation of another." In modern usage, slander has reference to words spoken, while libel (from the latin libellus, a little book) is used of words written. Slander is a false imputation of vice, while detraction is a diminishing report of virtue. Slanders are current about people of indifferent reputation, where the dirt thrown will stick. Detraction is common with reference to those whose reputations are above reproach and the voice of scandal. This is one of the basest of sins. Hervey speaks of it thus: "Slander, that worst of poisons, finds an easy entrance to ignoble minds."

The possibility and the currency of such sins exhibit the depths of depravity to which human nature may sink. To speak evil of a man to his face is termed "revealing," a more generous fault than

slandering or "back biting," speaking evil behind one's back. It is a cowardly sin. These sins are expressly forbidden by both letter and spirit of God's word. "Thou shalt not go up and down as tale bearer, among thy people." Peter forbids Christians acting as "busybodies in other men's mat- ters." The severest punishments are enforced against it. Miriam's lepro- ry came upon her as a punishment for gossiping about her brother, Moses. To refrain from evil speaking is given as a proof of perfection by James. How are we to avoid this common and prevalent sin?

1. Speak only good of the absent. Be as fair as a court of justice and do not condemn unheard. "With what measure ye make it shall be measured to you again." It is a true law.

2. Do not listen to the voice of the whisperer. Defend the absent, cham- pion the cause of the weak. If an evil tale comes to your ears, do not repeat it. Who is free from this sin? Let him stand up and show himself. We would like to see him and make his acquaint- ance. These commandments serve to show our imperative need of Christ. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. You need Christ's atonement to cure your sin. Will you not claim him as your Savior?

BIRTHDAY SURPRISES.

John Kolloff Honored by a Party Saturday Night—Other Similar Events.

John Kolloff, of 516 Eighth avenue, was surprised by a number of his friends at his home Saturday night on the occasion of his thirty-fifth birthday. John Kolloff had conceived the excellent idea. A tempting supper was spread by Mrs. Kolloff and the event proved an exceedingly happy one to all attending, the list of guests being as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. William Kroeger

Mrs. Bertha Bumberg

Miss Dora Schmidt

Miss Minnie Heilmann

Miss Minnie Dahn

Miss Emma Bockmeier

Messrs. John Dahn

Edward Lamp

Charles Bode

Jacob Waldmann

Gus Zarwert

L. O. Heilmann

Harry Wiese

A very pleasant surprise was arranged and given Leander Fuller and wife at their home on Fourth street by a number of their friends on Saturday evening.

The occasion was Mr. Fuller's thirty-second birthday, and a large number of his friends were present to celebrate the event in an appropriate manner. Dan- cing was the main feature of the evening's entertainment and was largely indulged in by those present. A fine supper was also served to the guests, and the evening was very pleasantly spent by all.

A very pleasant party was given at the home of Benjamin Bleuer on Ninth avenue and Seventeenth street on Saturday evening in honor of that young gentle- man's twenty-first birthday. About 40 young people were present and enjoyed an evening at cards and social pastimes.

Almost Impassable.

Much righteous indignation is being expressed by residents in the vicinity of Fifth avenue and Thirty-eighth street over the condition of the avenue at that point.

There is no walk on either side of the street between Thirty-fifth and Thirty-eighth streets, and on the side where people usually walk, brick has been piled up and left so that when the frost began to come out of the ground the brick toppled over and it is now necessary for the pedestrian to go out into the street car tracks and wade ankle deep in mud in order to get by. A lady with a little child got into the mud Saturday and was unable to get out without the assistance of some men who were passing. A little at- tention would put it in a passable condition until spring comes at least. In the same connection it might be well to in- quire whether or not it is the intention of the city to have the C. & P. rail- way company lay a walk on their side of the street.

Hill's Penalty.

Considerable inquiry has been made as to the probable penalty to be inflicted in the case of Wood B. Hill, convicted of mayhem, and as to whether or not he can be sent to the penitentiary under the finding of the jury, which leaves the punishment in the hands of the court. Under the circumstances it is not in the province of the court to send Hill to the pen- itentiary. His punishment cannot exceed \$1,000 fine and one year in the county jail.

Fell Dead.

These words are very familiar to our readers, as not a day passes without the report of the sudden death of some promi- nent citizen. The explanation is "Heart Disease." Therefore beware if you have any of the following symptoms: Short breath, pain in side, smothering spells, swollen ankles, asthmatic breath- ing, weak and hungry spells, tenderness in shoulder or arm, fluttering of the heart or irregular pulse. These sym- toms mean heart disease. The most re- liable remedy is Dr. Miles' New Heart Cure, which has saved thousands of lives. Book of testimonials free at Hartz & Bahnsen's, who also sell the New Heart Cure.

Fret over your taxes, your gas bills and your sins, not over a cold, when you can cure it so quickly with Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup.

Free For All.

Prize and rifle shooting next door to Corcoran's barber shop—Second avenue.

AMUSEMENTS.

Harper's Theatre, J. E. Montrose, Manager.

FRIDAY, FEB. 5.

A LAUGHING EVENT!

The Popular Eccentric Comedian,

EZRA KENDALL

In his Musical Pantomime Comedy,

A Pair of Kids.

The Laughing La Grippe

and Contagious Influenza of Fun!

THE LATEST SONGS, DANCES, BALLADS, FADS.

Seven's season of success of this funniest of plays.

Prices—25, 50 and 75c. Reserved seats on sale at Harper house pharmacy Feb. 3.

New York Symphony Club.



THIRD SEASON!

Mlle. Enrichetta Elfen, Prima Donna. Soprano; Miss Agnes Florian, Dramatic Contralto; H. Cornelius, Clarinet Soloist; Chas. F. Higgins, Violin Virtuoso; and Rudolph von Scarpa, Piano Soloist.

This brilliant organization will give one of their Grand Concerts in this city at the

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,

ROCK ISLAND.

Friday Evening, Feb. 5.

POPULAR PRICES.

Burtis Opera House,

DAVENPORT.

TUESDAY, FEB. 2.

Engagement of

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-OPERA COMPANY-

Heinrich Conrad, Director.

In Milledorfer's Com- edy-Opera.

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JOHNATHAN

Sung for 250 nights at the New York Casino.

Prices—\$1.50, \$1.25, 50c and 25c. Seats on sale Saturday, Jan. 30 at Fluke's. Telephone No. 20.

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